

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2024



MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh
Village Administrator

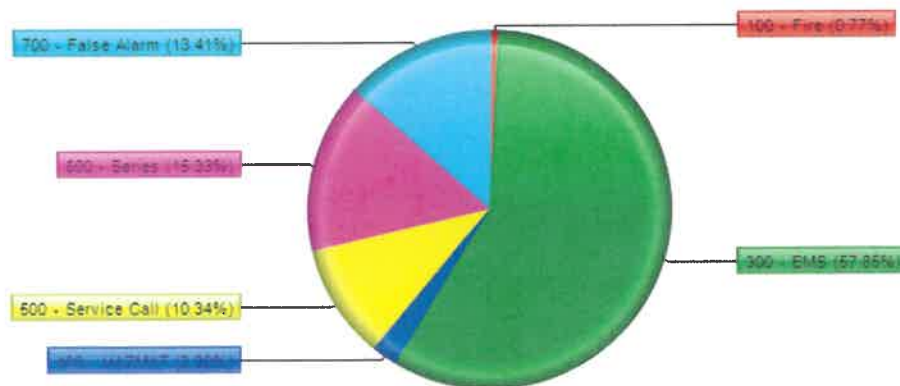
FROM: Thomas Gaertner
Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

DATE: November 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – October 2024

The Fire Department responded to 271 calls during the month of October. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to October 2023 when we had 268 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 57% of our response activity for the month of October.

Incident Type Group	October 2024
100 - Fire	2
300 - EMS	151
400 - Hazardous Conditions	6
500 - Service Call	27
600 - Good Intent	40
700 - False Alarms	35
900 - Special Incident	10
Monthly Total	271





Custom v Oct 1, 2024 - Oct 31, 2024 v

43%

FIRE

Percentage of Total Incidents

57%

EMS

Percentage of Total Incidents

271

INCIDENTS

Total Incidents

31

DAYS

Number of Days



	Counts	% Rows	% Columns	% All										
Week Ending	10/6/24	10/13/24	10/20/24	10/27/24	11/3/24	11/10/24	11/17/24	11/24/24	12/1/24	12/8/24	12/15/24	12/22/24	12/29/24	Total
RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT	48	66	62	60	35									271
Total	48	66	62	60	35									271



Custom v Jan 1, 2024 - Oct 31, 2024 v

41%

FIRE

Percentage of Total

58%

EMS

Percentage of Total

2,419

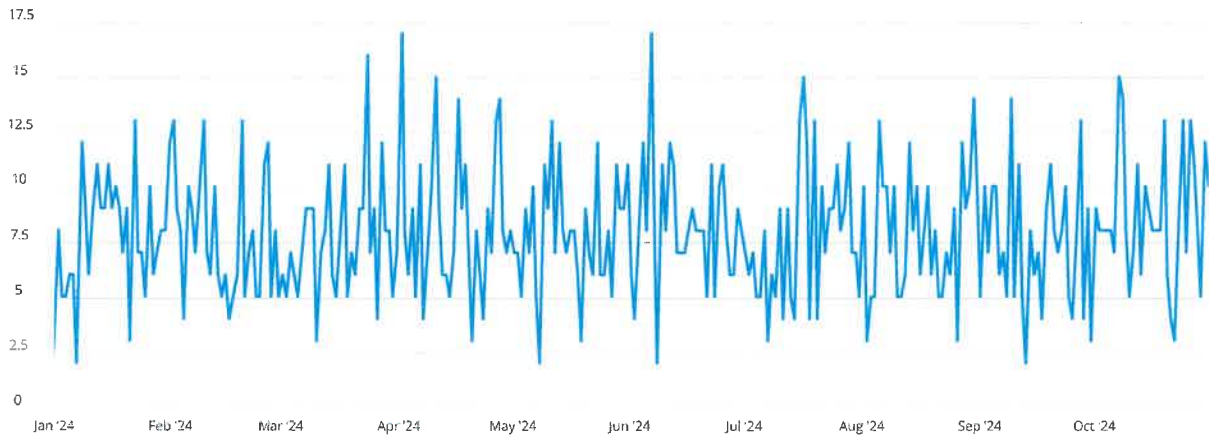
INCIDENTS

In Selected Time Box

305

DAYS

In Selected Time Box



Counts

% Rows

% Columns

% All

	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Total
(11) Structure Fire	1	3	5	4	3	2	2	5	8	1				34
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire		1								1				2
(14) Natural vegetation fire		2	1											3
(15) Outside rubbish fire			1			1	1		1					4
(16) Special outside fire						1								1
(21) Overpressure rupture from steam (no ensuing fire)		1												1
(25) Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition				1										1
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	130	124	143	142	158	139	148	142	132	154				1,412
(33) Lock-In	2						2					1		5
(35) Extrication, rescue		3	1		1		1	2		3				11
(38) Rescue or EMS standby		1			1									2
(41) Combustible/f. spills & leaks	3	2	2	1	2	3		3		1				17
(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	1	1	1		3	1	3	2		1				13
(44) Electrical wiring/equipm. problem	4		4		5	5	3	4	2	4				31

	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Total
(46) Accident, potential accident							1							1
(51) Person in distress	7	3	6	2	1	2		3	4	2				30
(52) Water problem	6	2	1		1	1	2	2	2	2				19
(53) Smoke, odor problem		1			3		1	3	1	2				11
(54) Animal problem or rescue					1				1	1				3
(55) Public service assistance	10	8	10	6	8	12	11	8	7	22				102
(56) Unauthorized burning							1							1
(57) Cover assignment, standby at fire station, move-up				1						1				2
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	38	34	35	54	29	48	29	29	32	31				359
(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	9	5	4	9	5	7	6	11	3	8				67
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke	1	1		1	1				1	1				6
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm										2				2
(73) System or detector malfunction	3	1		5	5	3	2	1	1					21
(74) Unintentional system/detect... operation (no fire)	26	29	20	27	16	22	24	32	25	33				254
(90) Special type of incident, other							1		1					2
NULL						2								2
Total	241	222	234	253	243	249	238	247	221	271				2,419

Fire Chief Gaertner Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended our Monthly Officers Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the Monthly Village Board of Trustees Meeting.
- Attended six days of demonstrations for a new CAD System for the department.
- Attended the WSCDC CAD Project Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting.
- Attended a Zoom Meeting with First Due on possibly upgrading our current fire reporting system.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association General Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended the US Fire Administrations three-day Webinar.
- Attended the LemonAid check presentation ceremony here at the fire station.

Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the Chief Fire Officer class held by the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute on Community Risk Reduction and outreach.
- Attended our Monthly Officers Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the WSCDC Radio Committee Meeting.
- Attended a Demo for a potential new compliance company (IROL).
- Attended a Zoom Meeting with Federal Signal on our new messaging system.
- Attended the RFFD Annual Open House.
- Attended the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference in Peoria, IL.
- Attended a meeting on upgrading our RMS system to First Due.
- Attended the Quarterly WSCDC Operations Meeting.
- Attended the WSCDC CAD Project Meeting.
- Ensured the new monthly policy compliance surveys were rolled out and completed.
- Attended the LemonAid check presentation ceremony here at the fire station.
- We met with Dominican University about adding our radios to the university's system, which would add another layer of safety for operational staff on their premises.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

October is always one of the busiest months for the Fire Prevention Bureau and this October lived up to that billing.

Fire Prevention Week occurred during the week of October 6, through October 12, 2024. In a move away from the norm, we held our Fire Department Open House back in September, September 14th to be exact. You can read about the events of the day in my September Report. In summary, we had an awesome day with the weather being warm and dry. We estimated over 400 people came through the Firehouse over the course of the event. The 2024 Fire Prevention Week campaign slogan was “Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You”. The campaign slogan strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

Deputy Chief Bochenek, Renee and I attended the annual Fire Prevention Luncheon sponsored by The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA). Awards were presented to several recipients who excelled in their fire prevention efforts during the last year. The IFSA sponsors the annual Burn Camp for children who have received burns and spend at least one week in a hospital burn unit in Illinois.

October is the month we wrap up our annual Safety Assemblies in all the elementary schools. We did 7 assemblies in October. As described last month, we have changed our name to The River Forest Community Safety Team or RFCST for short. Our presentations consist of age-appropriate material that gets ramped up every year with more content on all of the subject matter. We go into all the Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade assemblies in each of the public and private schools and teach Fire Safety, Gun Safety, Street Crossing Safety, Bike Riding Safety as well as talk about Community Helpers who the students can rely upon for help if needed. The assemblies are very fun to present, and the students love to have that LIVE interaction with all the presenters. In all, we presented safety information to 1084 contacts on the various safety topics.

We teamed up with The River Forest Library to present a Touch-A-Truck event where 150 kids and 150 Adults were able to come and spent some time looking at and “touching” the fire trucks. The RF Police Department and Public Works department also sent a couple of vehicles. The kids love to stand in the bucket of one of the loaders. It also makes for a great photoshoot. Unfortunately, the Fire Department had two calls during the event but the kids and adults enjoyed their time (see photos).

As an off shoot of the LemonAid event in September, the organizers of the fundraiser called and asked if they could do the official presentation of the donated funds here at the firehouse. The reason they wanted to do it here was the two groups had thank-you cards and wanted to present them to the First Responders in front of a fire truck. Chief Gaertner and Deputy Chief Bochenek accepted the thank-you cards (See photos).

I held two building fire drills in two condominium buildings in October. I usually get a couple requests for building fire drills at various times of the year, but this year the requests were scheduled for the same day. I was very pleased with the results of the drills and the building residents responded and took the drills seriously.

As in every October, the month ended with Halloween. I spent some time putting Halloween Safety Flyers together for the Village Hall lobby as well as the monthly E-Newsletter, the Fire Departments social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram and Village website.

The last item in my monthly report is a summary of activities that do not fit in any other category such as, hydrant flows for sprinkler companies, servicing a Knox Box, public education flyers, and picking up and/or dropping off vehicles for service among others. These activities may not be difficult but do take up time that I like to account for.



**RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
MONTHLY REPORT
October 2024**

Monthly Activities	Monthly Totals		YTD-Year to Date	
	Oct-23	Oct-24	2023	2024
**FPB Inspections	7	8	127	136
**Company Inspections	35	44	151	190
FPB Re-Inspections	10	1	77	84
Company Re-Inspections	15	14	71	67
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	3	0	10	16
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	0	5	44	33
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	1	3
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	4	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	0	2	30	33
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	70	74	515	566
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	2	4	26	16
Violation Notices Issued	19	33	148	183
Violations Noted	43	55	361	379
Violations Corrected	31	13	216	182
Permits Issued	0	2	31	34
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	3	2
All Meetings/Consultations	5	2	57	43
Training Activities	1	2	28	30
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	0	3	12	6
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	5	0
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	20	17	127	146
**Average turn around (Business Days)	1.95 days	2.94 days	2.53 days	4.19 days
Public Education Programs	12	15	57	57
Public Education Program Contacts	967	976	2231	3389
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	6	9	75	89

** Performance Measures for the Chief
Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

Training Division: Lt. John Carter

For October 2024 the department participated in various training activities such as:

- Loyola CE was held on October 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Subject was Domestic Assault, Battery, and Sexual Assault.
- MABAS Division 11 held a 3-day drill at the old Carson Pirie Scott store at North Riverside mall. Large area search and rescue in blacked out conditions, downed firefighter rescue, Rapid Intervention Team, Accountability, Command and Communications were evolutions that were performed.
- FF/PM's Zipperich and Viera attended Division 11 Hazardous Materials team drill at Exxon Mobil refinery in Cicero on October 10th, 11th. Team toured the facility and discussed tactics and strategy in case of an incident.
- FF/PM Seablom attended Division 11 Fire Investigator team drill in Oak Park on October 23rd. Subject was explosions.
- FF/PM Zipperich attended 40-hour Instructor I class in at Romeoville Fire Academy
- FF/PM Finfrock attended an 80-hour Hazardous Materials Technician course in Romeoville
- FF/PM Fischer is attending Company Fire Officer through Illinois Fire Service Institute at Bedford Park Fire Department.
- FF/PM Doran is attending Company Fire Officer at NIPSTA.
- FF/PM's Zipperich, Doran and Bencik have completed Acting Officer training and now can act up as Lieutenant's
- Shifts started their semi-annual driving competency course
- Shifts continued performing the Fire Service Vehicle Operator (FSVO) driving course to be able to recertify

Individual Shift Reports

Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd

Activities: Black Shift responded to a total of 82 calls. 30 were fire related, 52 were EMS calls

Incidents/Events of note: None

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 91 hours

EMS: 29 hours

Specialty: FF Fischer had an additional 40 hours of training for a week of COFO class. FF Seablom attended the division fire investigators drill. The shift participated in the division search and rescue drill. The shift attended an interdivisional drill with Maywood, Broadview, and Bellwood for rig familiarization. The shift completed check rides as well as a FSVO obstacle course.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

FF Buchholz and FF Kyles taught a CPR class at Concordia

Black shift was invited and attended a block party in Oak Park

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 57/61

Hydrants: Completed

Hose Testing: Completed

Red Shift Report- Lieutenant E. Howe

Activities: Red Shift had a total of 95 calls. 36 were fire related, 50 were EMS calls, 8 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On the morning of October 25th, Engine 213 and Truck 219 called to Fresh Thyme grocery store at 7501 North Ave for the Fire Alarm. Upon arrival crews found the fire alarm activated, and that a sprinkler head had been broken in the warehouse. According to store staff a forklift struck the head, causing it damage, and allowing the free flow of water. To mitigate the situation RFFD crews closed the main valve for the sprinkler system and opened the system's main drain. This bled the remaining water and pressure from the sprinkler system. Store management was made aware of RFFD's actions and advised to contact their alarm company to restore their sprinkler system. The store manager advised RFFD that he had already done so, and he expected the alarm and sprinkler system to be back in service that same day.

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 83

EMS: 28

Specialty: MABAS Division 11 Drill in North Riverside

FF. Doran continued to work on his Officer Task Book.

FF Howe Continued to familiarize himself with Truck 219 and Truck operations

FF Viera attended Div. 11 Hazmat drill

Public Service & Community Outreach:

- Attended numerous Block Parties throughout the village

Departmental Goals:

In-Company Inspections: 56/81

Hydrant Testing: Completed

Hose Testing: Completed

Gold Shift Report – Lieutenant M. Smith

Activities: Gold Shift responded to a total of 79 calls. 22 fire related, 50 were EMS calls, 7 service calls.

Incidents/Events of Note: On October 5th, Gold Shift responded to 1515 Bonnie Brae Place for smoke in the building. Units arrived and found smoke on all three floors of the apartment building. Engine 213 found a plastic flowerpot that was burning. The fire was extinguished and the building ventilated using a PPV fan. On October 5th, Gold Shift responded to 7200 Division Street for the fire alarm. Firefighters investigated the fire alarm and found smoke and a burning odor on the north side of the second floor. The cause of the smoke and odor were electrical in nature. The power for the floor was shut down and the floor was ventilated. On October 26th, Gold Shift responded to the train on fire at Central and Lathrop Ave. E213 extinguished the fire using a 1 ¾ inch hose line. Gold Shift installed smoke detectors at 726 Lathrop Ave.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Firehouse Tours	1	4 visitors
CPR Classes	2	23 students
Car Seat Install	0	
Detector Install	1	
Block Parties	1	100+ (Touch-A-Truck)

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire:	157
EMS:	22
Specialty:	75.5

FF Finfrock attended Hazmat Tech in Romeoville. FF Finfrock attended the first week of Company Fire Officer in Romeoville. FF Zipperich attended Instructor 1 in Romeoville. FF Zipperich attended the Division 11 Hazmat Drill in Cicero.

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections:	66/78
Hydrants:	88/136
Hose Testing:	0

EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Finfrock

RFFD responded for a TOTAL of 149 patients in October. Of those patients Ambulance 215 treated and transported 121, while 19 patients refused further treatment/transport from the fire department. In addition, crews responded to 9 patients for a lift assist. The 121 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

Loyola University Medical Center- 15

Rush Oak Park Hospital- 87

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital- 16

West Suburban Hospital- 1

Hines VA- 2

MacNeal- 0

800 N. Harlem- 22 patients

7617 North Ave- 14

Mutual Aid from A215- 16 times

Abdominal Pain- 7

Adult Respiratory Distress- 5

Allergic Reaction- 0

Altered Mental Status- 3

Animal Bite- 0

Assault/Battery- 1

Behavioral/Psych- 7

Burns- 0

Chest Pain- 7

Cardiac Arrest- 0

Choking- 0

CO Poisoning- 0

Diabetic Problems- 0

Electrocution- 0

ETOH- 7

Eye Problems- 0

Fall- 31

General Aches/pain- 6

Hemorrhage/Bleeding- 2

Medical Alarm- 0

No Complaint- 12

Opioid Overdose- 2

Peds Respiratory Distress- 2

Pregnancy- 0

Sick Person- 33

Traffic Accident- 14

Traumatic Arrest- 0

Traumatic Injury- 3

Unconscious/Unresponsive- 4

Unknown Problems- 0

Weakness- 3

Vehicle/Station Maintenance LT. E. Howe & FF/PM Chris Doran

Lt Howe continues to fine-tune vehicle the vehicle and equipment maintenance program. The highlights of maintenance and repairs performed this month are listed below.

Maintenance:

- 200- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 202- **Waiting for info on new car**
- 201- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 218- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 213- PTO Hydraulic hose replaced
- 222- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 219- Bimonthly inventory completed
- 214 No Issues
- 215 PM Completed

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LIBRARY TOUCH-A-TRUCK





LEMON-AID THANK YOU LETTERS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



